

Wiretaps report *F Post 12-27-76* denied by Levi

WASHINGTON (AP) — Atty. Gen. Edward H. Levi on Sunday denied reports that the Justice Department had approved wiretaps on delegates from Micronesia and offered praise for FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley.

The outgoing attorney general declined to discuss investigations of past abuses by the FBI and Central Intelligence Agency but commented:

"I think there has been a change of attitude and possibly a reformation" at the CIA.

He praised Kelley for what he termed transforming the priorities at the FBI without disrupting the bureau, noting that during the last three years domestic security investigations have declined from 22,000 to less than 300.

Levi's comments were made during a broadcast interview on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Questioned about comments by Kelley that someone in the FBI had lied to him about burglaries conducted by the agency, Levi said Kelley is trying to avoid making a public judgment while the investigation is continuing.

He said some individuals have been removed from direct consultation on some matters, but Kelley is taking steps not to preclude the formal probe.